

When to consult a nephrologist?

- Abnormal kidney function testing, high creatinine or low GFR (glomerular filtration rate)
- Need for dialysis
- Persistent abnormal blood chemistries (potassium, sodium, calcium, etc)
- Unexplained blood in urine
- Unexplained protein in urine
- Prior kidney transplant
- Sudden worsening of blood pressure control that was previously stable
- Severe and/or uncontrolled hypertension requiring 3 or more medications
- History of kidney removal or solitary kidney
- Diagnosis of polycystic kidney disease on CT, ultrasound, or MRI
- Pregnant woman with any degree of kidney disease or urinary protein
- Edema (leg swelling)
- Medical management of kidney stones
- Anemia related to chronic kidney disease

What is the difference between a nephrologist and a urologist?

- Nephrologists are medical doctors who specialize in kidney care and treating diseases of the kidney. Nephrologists prescribe *nonsurgical medical* treatments for these disorders.
- Urologists are surgical doctors who focus on disorders of the kidneys and urinary tract. They treat problems such as kidney stones, blockages of the urinary tract, prostate disorders, kidney cancer, erectile dysfunction, and urinary incontinence. Urologists are qualified to perform surgery and outpatient medical procedures to correct such conditions, in addition to nonsurgical medical treatments.